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RUCNASD/SOUTHERN AF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE
RUEHSB/AMEMBASSY HARARE 0017

UNCLAS HANOI 000808

PASS TO STATE FOR IO/UNP REBECCA GOLDENBERG AND IO/PSC JEAN CLARK

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [KDEM](#) [UNSC](#) [ZI](#) [XA](#) [ZU](#)

SUBJECT: SENIOR VIETNAMESE OFFICIAL SAYS ZIMBABWE SITUATION NO
THREAT TO REGIONAL STABILITY

REF: A) STATE 74375

¶1. (SBU) On July 11, the Ambassador met with Vietnamese Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Pham Binh Minh to deliver Ref. A points on the UNSC resolution on Zimbabwe. Minh said he read the U.S.-sponsored draft resolution "carefully." Hanoi has concluded that the situation in Zimbabwe is not a threat to peace and security in Africa and as such does not support the U.S.-sponsored resolution, he stated. In response, the Ambassador pointed out that some 25 percent of Zimbabwe's population appears to have fled the country and this is causing strain in the region. Minh replied that Hanoi has "no interests at stake" in Zimbabwe, but it has encouraged the two sides to talk.

¶2. (SBU) The Vice Foreign Minister also complained that Washington had not sufficiently consulted Hanoi in crafting the UNSC resolution. Giving the Government of Vietnam only 24 hours to consider this resolution before putting it to a vote is "abnormal," he added. Minh asserted that, in the future, Washington should give Hanoi more time to consider UNSC resolutions.

¶3. Minimize considered.

MICHALAK